

Dan Jenkins
Director of Facilities
Eastern Sierra Unified School District

Trevor Joseph
Project Manager
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
PO Box 942836
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Dear Mr. Joseph,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Dan Jenkins and I am currently the Director of Facilities at Eastern Sierra Unified School District. The District is part of the Inyo-Mono IRWMP and submitted the Coleville High School Water project as part of the implementation application. As you can imagine the District and the other projects proponents are disappointed with the current recommendations for funding. I can only speak for myself but I am confident that if I compared my application to those from the well-funded urban regions I would see many weaknesses. With that said I believe it highlights the fact that while DWR has set up a scoring system intended to be equitable in nature in fact is prejudicial in practice.

The Inyo-Mono IRWMP represents a region with a high percentage of DAC's. Because of a lack of resources, expertise and staffing the application process for most of the proponents is overly burdensome, causing many of the projects to be poorly represented. I know in the District's case for example the criteria of economic analysis (cost/benefit) was very difficult to estimate. This project was not driven by cost/benefit but rather by CDPH requirements forcing the District to enter into a project it would have never pursued on its own. When it comes to water quality many DAC's are living under unfunded mandates and have no real hope of success without the help of grant programs like prop.84.

I would ask that DWR would reevaluate its funding recommendations for the Inyo-Mono IRWMP with the hope that at a minimum some of our group's smaller projects could be fully funded. I would also ask that in the future DWR will work to address some of the many challenges the rural regions are faced with when applying for grant funding.

Best Regards

Dan Jenkins